

Appomattox Court House

National Historical Park

Planning Newsletter 1

Summer 2001

Welcome – Please Join Us

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park memorializes the village where, on April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, signifying the end of the Civil War. The National Park Service staff at Appomattox Court House invites all individuals and groups who share our love of this historic place to join us in setting the park's future direction.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park is revising its general management plan, the blueprint for the park's future. Your involvement and contribution will help. Please read this newsletter to learn more about the park and some of the issues affecting its future, and how you can participate.

Reed Johnson
Superintendent

What Is a GMP and Why Is It Needed?

Every 20 years or so, the National Park Service (NPS) takes a fresh look at the management of a park's natural and cultural resources and the opportunities that it offers visitors. In consultation with interested citizens, organizations and governmental agencies, the NPS articulates a shared vision for the future of the park in a general management plan (GMP). The GMP directs the overall preservation and development of the park, and the ways in which park staff will respond to immediate and future challenges.

The NPS is now beginning this process for Appomattox Court House National Historical Park in Virginia. The park's current GMP, completed in 1977, is now out-of-date. Over the past 24 years, resource conditions have changed, visitor use has increased, and new influences on the park have emerged. The new GMP will confirm the park's mission and will identify the resource conditions and visitor experiences the park should strive to achieve. Some of the questions that will be explored include:

- What are the goals and desired conditions for the park's cultural and natural resources?
- How can the park best protect its cultural and natural resources while offering high quality visitor services?
- What stories should the park tell to enhance interpretive and educational opportunities for visitors?
- What facility and infrastructure requirements are needed to support the park's mission of preservation and interpretation?

The planning team will begin finding answers to these questions by gathering public comments and collecting and analyzing data on the park and its surroundings. This research will lead to the development of several different management alternatives, each with a different strategy for meeting park goals. The alternatives will be published as a draft GMP with full public review. An accompanying environmental impact statement will provide a comparative analysis of the effects of the various alternatives on the park's resources, on visitors' experiences, and on the community. A final GMP and environmental impact statement will incorporate public comments on the draft. Implementation will begin after the final plan is approved.



The McLean house was the site of General Lee's surrender to Lieutenant General Grant.